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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are cancelled and Claims 21-38 are added. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

In the Office Action dated July 28, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Pat. Spec. No. 185 932. The Examiner stated that the European reference discloses a cord storage reel having all the features as recited in the instant claims, including unitary frame 2 with U-shaped base portion 3, handle portion 5 and mounting axle 4, spool 9, electrical outlet 11 switch and circuit breaker 12, and knob 7; wherein, the unitary frame is inherently capable of supporting the reel in at least two positions as claimed.

The Examiner rejected Claims 6-7, 11, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the European reference. Regarding the instant claimed metal, plastic and/or tube stock materials used to make the frame, the Examiner's position is that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use any commercially available material, such as metal, plastic, and/or a tube stock material, for making the frame of the European reference so as to achieve expected advantages thereof, such as low cost, light weight, high strength, and/or greater availability of the material and equipment for making the structure.

The Examiner rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,651,943 issued to Cho or U.S. Patent No. 5,816,981 issued to Hung. Regarding the instant claimed foot pads, the Examiner noted that the use of foot pads on support framings is well known and it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a well known type of foot pads on the support framing of the European reference so as to prevent undesired displacements of the cord storage reel.

Applicants have rewritten the claims as new Claims 21-38. New independent Claim 21 further defines the spool of the cord storage reel as having a hub with opposed open ends and front and rear flanges attached to the hub. The flanges each have a raised surface received in one of the open ends of the hub.

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European reference shows a one-piece cable drum 8 with flanges 13, 14 mounted on a hub 9 that is supported by a drum carrier 4 of the frame. Clearly the front end of the hub 9 is closed by a wall. Thus, the flanges 13, 14 are not attached to the hub 9, nor do the flanges 13, 14 have a raised surface, nor does the hub 9 have opposed open ends.

New independent Claim 31 defines the flanges as being releasably attached to opposite open ends of the hub. As stated above, the European reference shows fixed flanges 13, 14 that are not attached to the hub 9, and the hub 9 does not have opposed open ends.

New independent Claim 36 defines the flanges as being releasably attached to opposite open ends of the hub and an electrical outlet being mounted on the front flange. The European reference shows that flanges 13, 14 are fixed and are not attached to the hub 9, the hub 9 does not have opposed open ends, and the electrical outlets 11 are mounted on the hub.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicants believe that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.